

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA:WLSIMMONS:YT

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

ARA - AMB. TODMAN

S/S: A. OTTO

ARA/CCA - MR. GLEYSTEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065367

EXDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, CU

SUBJECT: US DISCUSSIONS WITH CUBA

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTER MARCH 24 PRIOR TO 1200 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME.

2. BEGIN MESSAGE: WE WILL SHORTLY ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THAT
US REPRESENTATIVES HAVE JUST MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA. OUR GOVERNMENT HAD PREVIOUSLY
INDICATED THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO A
CUBAN INITIATIVE THAT TALKS TAKE PLACE BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES ON THE US LAW ESTABLISHING A 200 MILE FISHERIES
CONSERVATION ZONE ON MARCH 1. IN THESE INITIAL EXPLORATORY
TALKS WE ALSO TOLD THE CUBANS THAT THE US WISHES TO DISCUSS
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ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. WE DO NOT MINIMIZE THE DIFFICULTIES WE WILL ENCOUNTER
IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CUBANS, MUCH LESS RESOLUTION
OF THE ISSUES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IN THE FIRST
INSTANCE, CUBA CONTINUES TO IMPOSE PRE-CONDITIONS ON TALKS
ON SUBJECTS OTHER THAN FISHERIES. THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS

WHICH WE HOPE TO BEGIN AND WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE LENGTHY
WE WILL BE MINDFUL OF OUR COMMITMENTS TO ACHIEVE A NEW

PANAMA CANAL TREATY AS A MAJOR PRIORITY IN LATIN AMERICAN
POLICY AND WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT US-CUBA TALKS IN NO
WAY ADVERSELY AFFECT ESSENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR
WHATEVER TREATY IS EVENTUALLY REACHED BETWEEN PANAMA AND
THE US. I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE BROAD OUTLINES
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS.

4. FOR CARACAS: YOU WILL WISH TO REMIND THE FOREIGN
MINISTER THAT OUR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF TALKS WITH THE
CUBANS IS LIKELY TO EVOKE STRONG PROTESTS FROM THE ANTI-
CASTRO CUBAN COMMUNITY IN VENEZUELA WHICH MAY WELL TAKE
AN ANTI-US TURN.

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